

Mid-America Leadership Conference

Missouri SkillsUSA provides opportunities for all members to challenge their leadership potential. Activities range from local officer meetings, District Executive Council meetings, State Leadership awards and the Mid-America Leadership Conference. Each of these has specific goals and objectives.

The Mid-America Leadership Conference began as the Region IV SkillsUSA Leadership Conference that held its first meeting at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska in 1977. Representatives of the State SkillsUSA Associations who make up SkillsUSA'S Region IV, attend the Conference, now held in Columbus, Nebraska. The states that make up Region IV are: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas. The states of Colorado, Illinois, Montana, Wisconsin and Wyoming also participate due to their past association with the conference.

Missouri SkillsUSA views the Mid-America Leadership Conference as a necessary step in the training process of the State and District officers. The Conference is based on the SkillsUSA Outstanding Chapter guidelines. Each "chapter" has the opportunity to excel in all leadership contests, fundraising, community service projects and planning the year's activities.

The SkillsUSA Mid-America Leadership Conference is held the fourth weekend of October each year at the New World Inn in Columbus, Nebraska. The address is:

New World Inn
Highways 30 and 81 South
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
(800) 433-1492

The SkillsUSA Mid-America Leadership Conference has participants work hard and learn more than they could imagine while having fun. They will return motivated. This conference is designed to provide hands-on learning experiences for district officers, local officers and advisors. This training will aid all participants in running leadership activities at the local, district and state levels. You will also gain valuable insight into other State and Local SkillsUSA Chapters and what they are doing.

SkillsUSA Official Attire shall be worn during all General Sessions. The SkillsUSA National Code of Conduct shall apply to this conference, as in all SkillsUSA functions. You will need to bring some casual clothes, swim wear, in addition to SkillsUSA official attire. Do not over pack!

Meals, lodging, and registration expenses are the responsibility of each participant unless otherwise arranged by local chapter. Missouri SkillsUSA will make all room arrangements and room assignments.

You will need to bring enough money for meals on the bus trip and for items you may need while at the SkillsUSA Mid-America Conference. If special accommodations need to be made for students or advisors, please contact us as soon as possible, but no later than the registration deadline.

Missouri SkillsUSA has reserved one (1) bus for the trip to Nebraska. **All Missouri SkillsUSA participants must ride the bus to and from Nebraska.** The bus will leave from the St. Louis area on Wednesday at approximately 9:00 a.m. The East, Central and Southeast district participants should plan to be at the selected starting point by 8:30 a.m. to load and board the bus. We will select the starting point near St. Louis after we receive all registration forms. We will be able to leave a limited number of vehicles at the school we leave from.

The bus will travel along I-70 to Columbia where we will pick up Central, Northeast and South Central district participants. The bus will then travel to Kansas City via I-70 and then north on I-29 to Platte City where we will pick up Northwest, Southwest and West Central participants. We will then travel north on I-29 to St. Joseph and make our final pick up. We will eat lunch after the Columbia pick up and dinner after the St. Joseph pick up. All participants will need money for food on the bus trip to and from Nebraska. We are going to try to arrive in Columbus as early as possible so we need the information requested as soon as you know that you will be attending. We can arrange other pick-up points along I-70 or I-29 if you get us specific locations well in advance. We will let you know the time and location of your pick-up point at a later date.

We will be departing from Columbus, Nebraska at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Sunday and arriving in St. Louis by 9:00 p.m. If you have any questions concerning this trip, please contact this office at (314) 751-4460.

Missouri SkillsUSA will pay for the charter bus. It is the responsibility of each local chapter or SkillsUSA district to transport the students to and from the pick up point.

Please remember to have personal health insurance cards or I.D. cards with you at all times. If students do not have individual insurance cards, please be sure that they bring photocopies of both sides of their parent or guardian's card for which they are eligible to receive benefits. This will assist us in helping them get medical attention without infringing upon your parental rights. This enables us to help your student while not assuming your responsibilities.

An outline agenda for the three and one half day conference is available upon request.